AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A method for diagnosing prostate cancer, the method comprising the step of detecting increased levels of a human endogenous MMTV-like subgroup 2 (HML-2) retrovirus encoded expression product in a patient prostate or blood sample relative to a negative control sample, wherein increased levels of at least 150% are indicative of prostate cancer.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the expression product is an RNA or a polypeptide.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the patient sample is a prostate sample.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the expression product is an RNA comprising SEQ ID NO:155.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the expression product is an RNA comprising SEQ ID NO:5.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein SEQ ID NO:155 is at the 5' end of the RNA.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the RNA comprises SEQ ID NO:155 and SEQ ID NO:5.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the expression product is a polypeptide and wherein the polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of gag, prt, pol, env, cORF, and tat.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the polypeptide is detected using an antibody.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 2 further comprising the step of enriching RNA in the patient sample.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the expression product is detected using PCR, SDA, SSSR, LCR, TMA or NASBA.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the PCR is RT-PCR.

16-38. (Canceled)